



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS DEFENDANT
SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT

Tampa- MICHAEL ANTONIO CARWELL, age 25 of Tampa, Florida, appeared before the Honorable Richard A. Lazzara and was sentenced on a one-count indictment to 46 months' imprisonment for being a felon in possession of firearms.

Count One of the Indictment charged that on or about April 10, 2002, Carwell, a multi-convicted felon whose right to possess a firearm had not been restored, possessed two firearms.

This is another case indicted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). U. S. Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!". The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

This case was investigated by ATF, with the cooperation of the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office, 13th Judicial Circuit. Assistant United States Attorney John F. Rudy, III prosecuted the case.